

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1490 - HB 2088

March 16, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires first or second term offenders without high school diplomas or general educational development (GED) diplomas to attend GED examination preparation classes if sentenced to three or more years of incarceration after June 30, 2005. Offenders required to participate in GED classes must attend for three years or until receipt of a GED diploma.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$7,700,000/One-Time
\$3,903,800/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Correction (DOC), an additional 2,241 offenders would fit the criteria of this bill and would require GED classes. Assuming each class would have an average of 32 offenders, an additional 70 classrooms would be needed.
- DOC would need to hire 70 additional teachers in order to provide the necessary classes. Salary and benefits for 70 correctional teachers would result in \$3,833,793.60 (\$40,872 salary + \$13,896.48 benefits = \$54,768.48 x 70 teachers). An additional \$70,000 (\$1,000 materials x 70 classrooms) in recurring costs for educational materials.
- Capital costs for the construction of new classrooms will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$7,000,000 (\$100,000 x 70), and \$700,000 for computer equipment, furniture, and other related supplies (\$10,000 x 70).

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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